

## HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM

Drastic Scheme Introduced by Lord Lansdowne.

## PASSES FIRST READING

Proposed House to Consist of 350 Members—Restricts Crown's Appointment of Peers.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]  
London, May 8.—Lord Lansdowne's bill for the reconstitution of the upper chamber was introduced with businesslike directness, in a lucid, plausible and dignified speech, and was followed with intense interest by a large assemblage of peers and crowded peeresses and diplomatic galleries.

While the speech fulfilled the forecast offered by the Unionist leader several months ago, the bill itself was a conference measure drafted by Sir Robert Finlay, after repeated consultations with influential Tory peers and the front Opposition bench in the Commons. It embraced a drastic scheme for the substitution of a hybrid chamber with hereditary, nominated and elective sections for the present historic body. It answered in several respects the requirements defined by the Prime Minister in his Manchester speech. It reduced the membership to manageable proportions, removed the reproach of the exclusively hereditary character and deprived the Unionists of their overwhelming preponderance.

Co-ordinate authority and competitive functions were not claimed by Lord Lansdowne for the reformed chamber, but it was evident that Unionist peers would not be content with the possession of consultative powers exclusively. They were bent upon having effective checks upon democratic legislation in return for the sacrifices of tradition, principle and practice.

Complimentary and Evasive.  
Mr. Morley was complimentary and evasive in his reply, and while admitting that tremendous concessions had been made by the peers he was uncompromising in demanding that the Parliament bill be introduced into the Lords next week should be passed and absolute veto power suspended.

When the House adjourned, apparently no progress had been made toward a constitutional settlement.

"We are exactly where we were," exclaimed a Conservative peer, who had listened to the debate with clouded brow and a cynical smile. Lord Halsbury's thoughts would certainly have been worth a penny when Lord Lansdowne

declared that workmen, under the new scheme, could sit with dukes and marquises, and that the Conservative majority in the reconstituted house was not likely to exceed eighteen.

Yet when the last word was said it was plain that the Lords had gone a long way toward establishing a case for another conference after the coronation.

[By The Associated Press.]  
London, May 8.—Lord Lansdowne, leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, introduced his bill for the reconstitution of the upper house before a great audience, in which were many diplomats, to-day.

The Unionists, he said, were convinced that an amendment to the constitution of the House of Lords should proceed simultaneously with a reform in the relations of the two houses. They desired to demonstrate to the country that they could propose an efficient second chamber, which could be trusted to use its powers fairly as between the great political parties and faithfully to serve the democracy and at the same time be strong enough to resist the gusts of passion and prejudice with which all democracies were familiar. They proposed a house to consist of 350 lords of Parliament.

Election and Appointment of Peers.  
No peer should hold his seat for more than twelve years but they would be eligible for re-election. The peers themselves would elect one hundred members of the peerage possessing the statutory qualifications, such as being present or former judges, or holders of high offices, or members of the House of Commons, diplomats, naval and military officials, heads of civil service departments, lord mayors, provosts, etc.

A second contingent would consist of 120 members to be elected from outside the House of Lords by an electoral college composed of members of the lower house representing constituencies comprised in the electoral districts into which the country would be divided by specially appointed commissioners.

The third section of the house, numbering one hundred, would be appointed by the Crown on the recommendation of the Cabinet. Princes of the royal blood would retain their seats, as also would two archbishops, while five bishops would be elected. Including the Lord Chancellor and the ex-Lord Chancellor there would be sixteen law lords. The bill provided that peers who are not lords of Parliament shall be elected by the House of Commons. Lord Lansdowne concluded by expressing the belief that there could be no permanent party majority in a house reconstructed in this manner.

Under the measure introduced by Lord Lansdowne the power of the Crown to appoint hereditary peers is limited to five appointments each year.

Vicount Morley, who immediately followed Lansdowne, threw cold water on the plan. He admitted that the author of the bill had taken a bold and frank course, a possibly helpful course, but said that the government could not accept the proposals as a solution of the difficulty.

The bill passed its first reading.

Lord Lansdowne's bill goes much further in the direction of reform than the Liberals had expected, but will still give the Conservatives a majority in the upper house.

The bill is recognized by many Liberals as a possible basis of negotiations between the two houses, but only after the veto bill has been adopted.

Lord Morley, in a brief speech following Lord Lansdowne, made it clear that it would be impossible for the government to accept it as an alternative to the veto bill, although it might possibly serve as a complement or supplement to the veto bill.

The House of Commons began the report stage of the veto bill to-night, rejecting some of the amendments. It will pass the third reading this week, and will be sent to the House of Lords next week, which also has been fixed for the second reading of Lord Lansdowne's bill. The two measures will be before the House of Lords simultaneously, which may give rise to an interesting situation.

CHINA ABOLISHES COUNCIL.  
A Long Step Toward Constitutional Government.

Peking, China, May 8.—The long-awaited abolition of the Grand Council and substituting a constitutional cabinet of ten members, was issued to-day.

The cabinet as announced, however, is made up of five members, and the Council, with the addition of Liang Tzu Yen, the former president of the Foreign Board.

Prince Ching becomes Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Na Tung and Hsu Shih Chang are made vice-Premier Ministers. Liang Tzu Yen is named as Second Foreign Minister. Otherwise, the presidents of the various boards become the ministers respectively of their departments.

The change is in line with the demands of the National Assembly for a constitutional cabinet responsible to the body instead of to the throne, but in what respect the new ministry is made responsible to the Assembly has not been promulgated.

Washington, May 8.—With the substitution of a cabinet composed of Prince Ching and the heads of the ten executive departments for the old Grand Council of five persons, a long step toward the establishment of a true constitutional government in China has been taken. It is believed by officials here that it is a part of the plan to make cabinet ministers' tenure depend upon the will of a majority in the Constitutional Assembly, and since this was one of the principal demands of the liberal element it is expected that the action of the government will reduce the probabilities of an extension of the insurrection in the Canton neighborhood.

A cable dispatch to the State Department to-day from Minister Calhoun, reporting the issuance of the edict, indicates that while Prince Ching will continue to supervise the Board of Foreign Affairs, the actual Minister for Foreign Affairs will be Liang Tzu Yen, whose name was gazetted to-day. Tsou Chih Lai will act as head of this department until the new minister, who is now traveling in the United States, returns to China.

GERMANY WARNS FRANCE.  
Dangerous Consequences Might Follow Occupation of Fez.

Berlin, May 8.—Germany has warned France of the dangerous consequences which would be likely to follow the occupation of Fez by French troops.

Further than this the government has taken no steps, though watching developments in Morocco very closely. There is no truth in the rumor that Germany has decided to send three cruisers to Moroccan waters in order to raise the flag at Casablanca, Tangier, Mogador and El Arish.

In view of the hint from Berlin, it is believed here that the French flying column from the southwest, which has been hurrying to the relief of Fez, will be halted outside the capital.

Tangier, Morocco, May 8.—The French, British and Austrian consuls received advice from Fez to-day. The messages are of a pessimistic character. Other official communications and those of news agencies which are expected to not arrive during the day. The dispatches received state that Colonel Reuland's relief expedition is still close to El Knitra, the French advance being barely thirty miles beyond Fez.

This column was expected to reach El Knitra on May 1 and to make the intervening one hundred miles to Fez by forced marches not later than last Saturday.

CHOLERA AT ST. PETERSBURG.  
St. Petersburg, May 8.—Since the recurrence of the cholera epidemic there have been forty-one suspected cases in this city.

## FOREST LANDS IN PERIL

Senate Finance Committee Holds \$50,000 Appropriation.

## SLAP AT T. M. OSBORNE

Only Eighteen Men to Guard Preserves, Instead of Sixty—Fires Are Threatening.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]  
Albany, May 8.—Failure of the Senate Finance Committee to report an appropriation bill for \$50,000 for protection of the state's forest against fires—a slap at Thomas Mott Osborne, Forest, Fish and Game Commissioner, who is not loved by Tammany—has endangered vast tracts of the state forest preserves. Because the department has not the necessary money, the scheme of forest patrol against fires provided for in the law cannot be carried out.

Meantime forest fires are raging in the Adirondacks and the Catskills, and the state has only eighteen men instead of more than sixty on patrol in its preserves. The reason for this situation became apparent to-night through a sharp interchange of pleasantries between Senators Roosevelt and Frawley. Frawley, head of the Finance Committee, tried to show that the appropriation bill had not been reported because the Forest, Fish and Game Department—said he did not know who the commissioner was—hadn't given the necessary information. He and Senator Russell contradicted each other flatly on their version of the facts in the case. Roosevelt denounced him pointedly as responsible for the hold-up. When they ended the feeling of cordiality and harmony between insurgent Democrats and Tammany men had quickened noticeably.

Fires in Twenty Different Counties.

"On April 1 the Commissioner said this bill was needed urgently," said Senator Roosevelt. "Forest fires then were breaking out, and the department needed money to guard against their spreading. A week ago last Wednesday a request was made that the bill be reported immediately. The department refused. Forest fires were raging in twenty different counties. I was told the chairman of the committee then said the bill would be reported forthwith. It hasn't been, and the state is threatened with the loss of timber worth millions of dollars."

Senator Frawley reiterated that the committee hadn't been able to find out anything about the bill.

"While the Senator ever visited the department," queried Roosevelt. "I never did, and I never intend to," retorted Frawley. "If the Commissioner—don't know who he is—makes a proper statement about what he wants money for, he will get it. The Governor has urged the Finance Committee to exercise great care about the way money is spent, and we are going to. The proper statement has been made now, and the Commissioner will get his money."

"To my certain knowledge, the secretary of the department asked for immediate action on this bill last Wednesday," said Roosevelt hotly. "Now vast tracts of timber are endangered, and there," pointing to Frawley, "is one of the men responsible."

Wagner Hits Roosevelt.

"Well, the committee wanted to know what this appropriation was for," said Wagner, "and it couldn't get the information. Senator Roosevelt hasn't been long enough to know that the committee has to have accurate information about the purposes for which money is to be used."

"I have been here long enough to know who is commissioner," countered Roosevelt, "which is more than Frawley seems to know."

Meanwhile the fires are still burning. Governor Dix and the Forest, Fish and Game Department are most anxious lest they spread to the state preserves, and there is no money to fight the flames if they do eat into the state's timber lands.

FOREST FIRES KILL TWO  
Thousands of Acres Also Devastated in New England.

Boston, May 8.—Forest fires throughout New England, which had been fought all last night and were believed to be under control early to-day, broke out afresh this afternoon and the fatigued fire fighters were called out for more strenuous work than ever. Late to-night there were few of the serious fires which had not been brought again under control. Thousands of acres of valuable land were devastated, human lives were lost and houses and farm buildings destroyed.

So far as is known only two persons lost their lives in combating the flames. An unknown French-Canadian woodchopper was burned to death near South Kingston, R. I., and the badly burned body of Albert Elder, of Winthrop, was found in a fire swept tract of woodland near Marlboro, Mass. He was employed on the country estate of Dr. Walter J. Johnson, of Boston. Several farmhouses and barns were burned near Tisbury, Mass., and several houses were destroyed near Chatham and Hingham, Taunton and Plymouth County.

The most destructive fires were at Biddford and Sanford, in Maine; Easton and Exbridge, in Massachusetts; and in the vicinity of South Kingston, in Rhode Island. While no buildings were burned at Sanford, the loss to timber land is estimated at \$50,000, and similar figures are set on the damage done at Exbridge and Exbridge. Several scattered forest fires were reported burning in Western Massachusetts to-day.

Several fires were also reported from New Hampshire, the most destructive being near Bow, where nine hundred acres were burned over, causing a loss estimated at \$100,000, and at Milford, where the loss is placed at \$20,000.

DEAF MUTE DIES IN A FIRE

Little Sister Left with Him Escapes with Life, but Is Badly Hurt.

Nichols, Brannon, a seven-year-old deaf mute, was killed and his little sister was badly injured by a fire which did damage of only \$1,000 to the five-story tenement house, No. 19 Greenwich street, yesterday. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Brannon, had left their home to go to work cleaning downtown offices only a little while before the fire started. Firemen Robert Boyle and Peter J. Mackenzie dashed into the little bedroom, which was thick with smoke and red with flames, where the little children slept, but not in time to save the one from death, nor the other from injuries which were said at the Hudson Street Hospital to be serious.

Mackenzie was nearly overcome by smoke shortly afterward, but he dug himself over a window ledge and revived sufficiently to drop to the roof of the next building and to save himself.

SERIOUS FIRES UPSTATE

Saratoga Fire Department Called Out—Catskill Hotels Saved.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., May 8.—A forest fire which has been sweeping over a tract of woods south of this village, near the property of the State Mineral Spring Reservation, has assumed such serious proportions that the fire department of this village was called on to-day for aid. Several hundred acres of forest land, the property of farmers, was at work all night in an effort to check the flames. Two buildings were destroyed.

TO STOP OPIUM TRAFFIC

Great Britain and China Sign Agreement.

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The opium agreement between the Chinese and British governments becomes operative immediately. It provides that China shall annually diminish its production of opium proportionately with the Indian export, until its extinction in 1957. Great Britain agrees that the importation of Indian opium into China shall cease on the same date.

Great Britain is to be granted facilities for investigating this diminution, and China agrees to have similar facilities with reference to the sales and packing of opium in India. The Indian exports to China shall not exceed 25,000 chests in 1911 and they will be reduced 5,000 chests annually.

TO SUBORDINATE HISTORIAN

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]  
Albany, May 8.—A bill introduced to-night by Senator Glittens places the state historian, to which Senator Glittens, who recently appointed James Holden, under the control of the State Council.

Senator Glittens, Governor Dix, when he appointed Mr. Holden, got from him a promise not to object to this subordination of his place. Still, in consultation with the State Council, Mr. Holden has failed to live up to his promise. He has failed to live up to his promise because of the opposition of the State Council, which is in the hands of the State Council.

## NO LICENSE FOR GOTHAM

"Big Tim" Sullivan's Measure Lacks Two Votes of Passage.

## EQUITABLE BILL THROUGH

It Is Intended for the Mutualization of the Life Assurance Society.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]  
Albany, May 8.—After a hectic fight, "Big Tim" Sullivan's bill to permit the Mutualization of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, which was introduced by Sullivan, through within the prescribed distance of a church, failed of passage by two votes to-night. The vote was 24 to 14, practically a party line-up, though two Republicans, Emerson and Orin, voted for it, while Rayne and Burd, Democrats, voted against it. "Big Tim," Senator Wagner and others were resorting to various legislative devices to hold up the announcement of the result, while they tried to shift votes. Senator Brackett, who had opposed the measure, raised a point of order and demanded the announcement. Nothing happened, while "Big Tim" worked harder than ever.

"Do I get a ruling or don't I?" yelled Brackett, standing out in the middle of the floor.

"The chair holds the point of order well taken," finally announced Lieutenant Governor.

The Senate and the Assembly passed "Big Tim's" bill to facilitate the mutualization of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. This has the approval of the department, a policyholders' committee and J. P. Morgan, holder of the stock control. It was introduced May 2 and reported May 3—very quick work for so important a measure.

The bill permits a life insurance stock company to become a mutual company on the authorization of its policyholders and the approval of the State Insurance Department. The bill was drafted by the Insurance Department, and Governor Dix is expected to sign it within a few days.

Senator Ramoerger's bill, which would compel railroads to keep an engineer, brakeman and flagman on all locomotive engines other than yard engines, was passed 27 to 12.

COLLINS GIVES SOHMER LIE

Replies to Controller's Statement on Prison Affairs.

Troy, N. Y., May 8.—Cornelius V. Collins, former State Superintendent of Prisons, replied to-day to the statement given yesterday by State Controller Sohmer, in which the latter said that "the state has suffered severe financial loss through the irregular award of contracts for coal and food, and through the fact that deliveries have been made of articles cheaper than, or inferior to, the contract specifications."

Mr. Collins said:

The Controller is really attacking himself. If the state has suffered through improper supplies it is the Controller's department and not the department of the State Prison. The Controller is the one who is responsible for the supplies and for the fact that they are delivered at a price which is less than the contract price.

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PROTECTION FOR MILITIA

Civilian Bill Gives Them Civil Service Privileges of Veterans.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]  
Albany, May 8.—Assemblyman Cuvillier introduced to-night a bill giving to all persons in the militia, or that of any municipality, or in the state, who have received an honorable discharge after five years' service in the national guard or naval militia, protection against removal from that enjoyed by veterans of the Civil War. That is, they may not be removed save for cause, after a hearing, subject to review on a writ of certiorari.

Assemblyman Brooks had a measure requiring penitentiaries to deliver to the heads of the police in each city daily lists of articles placed with them the preceding articles.

A state-wide direct primary bill abolishing all conventions was presented by Assemblyman Fry. The bill would extend personal registration to the entire state. Senator Hinman to-night introduced the Hinman-Green bill of last year, which Governor Hughes advocated.

Assemblyman Fry offered a bill providing for the direct primary and all state officers down to and including members of Assembly.

Senator Ramoerger and Assemblyman Manley put in the large canal terminal bill, carrying out the recommendations of the Barge Canal Terminal Commission and proposing a bond issue of \$15,110,000.

Senator Sullivan and Assemblyman Hoey introduced a bill proposed by the State Insurance Department, extending for five years, from January 1 the time within which insurance companies must dispose of certain interdicted stocks and bonds.

An officer commission of twelve persons to promote the advancement of country life and agricultural education is proposed in a bill by Assemblyman Coard.

The New York Charter Commission of 1911, to consist of nineteen persons, is created by a bill by Assemblyman Hoey. An appropriation of \$50,000 is provided for expenses.

By Assemblyman Fry establishes a commission to inquire into the welfare and industrial opportunities of unskilled workmen and slaves of the state, and report to the Legislature February 1, 1912.

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DR. FREDERIC A. LUCAS.  
New director of American Museum of Natural History.

## LUCAS SUCCEEDS BUMPUS

Continued from first page.

Washington, and received the Doctor of Science degree at the University of Pittsburg (1909).

Cash contributions of \$21,107 since February 11, and a bequest of \$25,000 from the estate of Charles E. Telford were announced at the meeting. Professor Albert S. Bickmore, one of the three surviving founders of the museum on the board, announced the presentation of his great natural history library and collection of colored lantern slides as a gift of himself and Mrs. Bickmore.

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